



PLACER COUNTY  
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**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**STEPHEN L. D'ARCY**  
UNDERSHERIFF

## PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Friday, June 24, 2005  
Date/Time of Occurrence Thursday, June 23, 2005  
Nature of Event: Sheriff's Rescuers Assist in Finding Missing Yosemite Hiker  
Location of Call: Yosemite, CA

Released by: Dena Erwin, CSO, (530) 889-6922

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### **SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:**

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The Placer County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Team has joined the search for a missing Yosemite hiker.

Six team members were dispatched to Yosemite National Park late Thursday afternoon. They are searching for 51-year-old Michael Ficery who was last seen June 15. He was reported missing June 21, two days after his wilderness permit expired.

In 2001, the Placer County Sheriff's Mountain Rescue Team was the second in the state to ever become nationally certified for dangerous mountain rescue. The team is being flown by helicopter into the search site, which is above 7,000-feet elevation. The area is extremely steep and still covered in deep snow, making for dangerous conditions.

Additional Placer County Sheriff's Search and Rescue personnel are scheduled to join the search Saturday if Ficery is still missing. Members have extensive training, specialized equipment and years of experience in high-angle mountain rescue. The team is comprised of sheriff's deputies and Search and Rescue volunteers.

Placer County responded at the request of the State of California Office of Emergency Services mutual aid command post. The team is working at the direction of the National Park Service.

For further information, see the National Park's press release at [WWW.NPS.GOV/YOSE/NEWS](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/YOSE/NEWS) or Sheriff's Search and Rescue Unit Commander Lt. Rich Tornberg at (530) 889-8700.